MARVEL

23 LGY# 188

VENOM ISLAND

PART III

CATES - BAGLEY - OWENS - MARTIN

VENOM

BALL!!! OWENS

DISGRACED REPORTER EDDIE BROCK STUMBLED UPON AN AGGRESSIVE ALIEN ORGANISM CALLED A SYMBIOTE DURING ONE OF THE LOWEST POINTS OF HIS LIFE. THE TWO WERE JOINED AND USED THEIR COMBINED LUST FOR VIOLENCE TO MAKE THEIR CITY SAFER AS THE LETHAL PROTECTOR...

VENOM

SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH THE VENOM SYMBIOTE.

IN THE DAYS FOLLOWING THE EVENTS OF "ABSOLUTE CARNAGE," EDDIE BROCK HAS BEEN HAVING NIGHTMARES AND WAKING UP TO PROPHETIC MESSAGES CARVED INTO HIS FLESH.

IN AN EFFORT TO HEAL HIS OTHER, BROCK USED A QUINJET BORROWED FROM THE AVENGERS TO BRING IT TO A DESERTED ISLAND THEY HAD ONCE TRAVERSED AS **VENOM**, HUNTING SPIDER-MAN.

BUT AS THE CRAFT DESCENDED TOWARD THE ISLAND, BROCK LEARNED THE TRUTH: VENOM HAS BEEN INFECTED BY **CARNAGE**.

THE CRIMSON KILLER'S ESSENCE REMAINED WITHIN BROCK'S SYMBIOTE AND HAS TURNED THE ISLAND INTO ITS OWN PERSONAL KILLING FIELD, LEAVING EDDIE WITH NO CHOICE BUT TO SEVER HIS OWN HAND TO ESCAPE ITS BLOODY REACH!

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IT'S ALL COMING APART.

WITH EACH PIECE OF MYSELF I LOSE ON THIS ISLAND, MY FAITH IN SALVATION ERODES.

IF ANY PART OF ME STILL BELIEVED IN GOD, I'D BE PRAYING LIKE A BURNING NUN RIGHT NOW...

INSTEAD...A VOICE IN MY HEAD THAT I HAVEN'T KNOWN IN YEARS SCREAMS AT ME TO RUN.

TO WADE OUT INTO THE WAVES AND SEARCH FOR HOPE IN THE BLACK.

TO LEAVE THIS PLACE, AND MY SHADOW, FAR, FAR BEHIND...

IT TAKES ME A MINUTE TO REALIZE THE VOICE IS MY OWN.

THE ONLY VOICE I HAVE LEFT.

WHATEVER. NEVER WAS GOOD AT FOLLOWING MY OWN ADVICE ANYWAY.

SO, I TELL MYSELF TO SHUT THE @#$% UP.

WE AREN'T DONE HERE, BROCK.

NNGHHH!

YOU DON'T GET TO DIE YET.

AGHHH!

I'VE...LOST TOO MUCH BLOOD.

HAVEN'T...HAVEN'T BEEN HURT LIKE THIS WITHOUT MY OTHER TO HELP ME...

HAVEN'T...FELT PAIN LIKE THIS...IN...

NO. NO, DON'T BLACK OUT. COME ON...

GET UP, BROCK!

DAMMIT, NO! GET UP!

WAKE UP!

DO IT. COME ON!

YOU'RE GOING TO DIE, BROCK! GET UP!

DO IT!

RAGGHH!!!

HGH, HGH.

NO...GET UP! YOU CAN'T...

NOW STAND UP.

WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO CLIMB.

LIZ ALLAN'S APARTMENT. NOW.

THIS IS INSANE, DYLAN.

YOU CANNOT KEEP A PIECE OF THE CARNAGE SYMBIOTE! IT MUST BE DESTROYED! IT IS EVIL!

IT'S NOT THE CARNAGE SYMBIOTE, THOUGH, REMEMBER?

THIS WAS A PIECE OF THE DRAGON MY DAD FOUGHT. THE GRENDEL...

IT WAS JUST BONDED TO CLETUS, SO HE MADE IT ALL... CRAZY...

AH, YES. MY MISTAKE. AN ANCIENT DRAGON SYMBIOTE IS PERFECTLY FINE.

WHAT EVER WAS I THINKING...?

WHEN YOU WERE BONDED TO THAT EVIL ALIEN DUDE, HE MADE YOU DO BAD THINGS, RIGHT?

BUT YOU AREN'T BAD.

YES. BUT I HARDLY THINK THIS IS THE SAME SITUATION.

THIS PIECE WAS CONNECTED TO NOT ONLY CLETUS KASADY, BUT WAS ALSO ATTACHED TO KNULL HIMSELF! IT WAS ATTACHED TO HIM MENTALLY THROUGH THE SYMBIOTE HIVE MIND!

I KNOW...

...AND I JUST HOPE IT STILL IS.

DYLAN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! THAT THING WILL KILL YOU!

IT'S TRYING TO.

I WON'T LET IT.

IT'S TRYING...TO CONTROL ME... I CAN FEEL IT. IT'S ANGRY. IT WANTS TO GET IN, BUT IT CAN'T FIND THE WAY.

IT'S CONFUSED. LOST.

TRAPPED.

I...I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHEN I TRIED TO BOND WITH YOU, IT BURNED...I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS POSSIBLE...

IT'S NOT.

THEN... WHAT AM I LOOKING AT?

IT'S NOT INFECTING ME, SLEEPER.

I'M INFECTING IT.

AGH! DYLAN, I CAN...FEEL IT. IT'S IN PAIN! YOU... YOU HAVE TO STOP!

DYLAN!

HE'S IN MY DREAMS.

HE TALKS TO ME EVERY NIGHT. THREATENS ME. THREATENS MY DAD.

I WANT TO KNOW WHY.

I WANT YOU TO TAKE ME TO HIM.

SHOW ME KNULL.

YOU CAN DO THIS...

COME ON, BROCK.

JUST...KEEP... GOING...DON'T BLACK OUT.

PUSH THE PAIN AWAY. JUST...KEEP PUSHING.

KEEP BREATHING. KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN...

DON'T...

DON'T LET THE DARK IN...

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HAVE TO...GET... CLOSER...

HIGHER.

CAN... FEEL HIM...

NO!

AGH...

GET UP! YOU SLEEP WHEN IT'S DONE.

NGH!

AFTER WE GET HELP...

I CAN FEEL IT, SLEEPER.

THE HIVE. I'M...BREAKING IN...

I CAN SEE IT.

DYLAN, THAT'S ENOUGH!

YOU'VE PROVEN YOUR POINT, NOW LET IT GO! YOU HAVE TO LET--

NO... NO, IT'S...

SHOWING ME... SOMETHING...

"...FAR AWAY..."

I...I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT...

"...WHAT AM I SEEING?

"WHY ARE YOU SHOWING ME THIS?"

D-DYLAN?

YES! I... I CAN HEAR YOU!

T-TRAPPED, DYLAN. HE NEEDS YOU. H-HELP...

WHAT? WHO?

EDDIE! HELP EDDIE!

DAD?!

AGHH!

PATHETIC! YOU REALLY THOUGHT THIS WOULD WORK?

IGNORE IT, BROCK! YOU CAN DO THIS! HIGHER!

YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD RADIO HOME? CALL YOUR LITTLE AVENGER FRIENDS TO SAVE YOU?!

NO... I--I CAME UP HERE...

...TO PRAY.

HAHAH! PRAY TO WHAT? TO WHO?!

RGGHH!

WHAT GOD DO YOU THINK CAN HELP YOU NOW?

WHAT GOD DO YOU THINK IS LISTENING?

THE ONLY GOD THAT'S EVER BEATEN YOU, YOU SON OF A @#$%.

THOR.

RAAGHH!

ZZZZAAAAAARRR

GET UP.

HARD PART IS OVER... LIGHTNING SEPARATED THE VENOM AND CARNAGE SYMBIOTES. LUCKY. TOO DAMN LUCKY...

NOW...JUST...ONE...ONE LAST PUSH. HAVE TO GET TO MY OTHER...BEFORE...

...I'M COMING... I WON'T...LEAVE YOU...

...WON'T... LEAVE YOU...

...ALONE...

I'M... COMING HOME.

I PROMISE.

I'M COMING HOME, DYLAN.

I WON'T LEAVE YOU...

...ALONE...

WHUMP

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--HEAR ME? EDDIE?

EDDIE? CAN YOU HEAR ME? HEY, YOU WITH US?

WHAT... WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON? WHERE AM I?

HEY, HEY, EASY. WE RECEIVED AN EMERGENCY BEACON FROM THE DOWNED PLANE. I GOT HERE AS SOON AS I COULD, SON.

DON'T WORRY.

YOU'RE SAFE.

NO. NO, MY OTHER. THE SYMBIOTE. IT'S NOT HERE. I HAVE TO GO BACK. I HAVE TO--

EDDIE...

I'M SORRY...

THAT'S NOT AN OPTION.

FWAAAWWMM

NO! NO!

NOO!!!

TO BE CONTINUED...

VENOM

#24!

HEY, VENOMANIACS! WE'VE SURVIVED THE MAYHEM OF "ABSOLUTE CARNAGE" AND ARE RUNNING THROUGH THE JUNGLES OF "VENOM ISLAND"! THERE'S STILL SO MUCH MORE TO COME IN THE WORLD OF VENOM! LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF THE STORY SO FAR BY WRITING TO US AT SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM! BE SURE TO MARK YOUR LETTERS "OKAY TO PRINT"!

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